(c) to (e) There is a good scope for increasing Soyabean production in Orissa State. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in the State of Orissa for increasing the production of various oilseed crops including Soyabean. Under this programme, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of farm implements, Rhyzodium culture, fanner's training etc. In addition the assistance is also provided for transfe orf technology through block demonstrations and frontline demonstrations.

Harmful effects of Pesticides on the Production of Rice

484. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that, the chemicals sprayed in the rice field do more harm than good and the production of rice continues to stagnate;

(b) the steps taken by Government to ban the use of pesticides on rice to increase its produotion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are aware that Indonesia and Phillipines have already banned the use of pesticides on rice which has resulted in ten per cent increase in rice yeild in Indonesia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRIULTURE (SHRl S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Sir, the Government is advocating the promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in rice in various. Sates|UTs which *inter-alia* includes adoption of cultural practices, use of tolerant|resistant crop varieties, conservation and augmentation of biocontrol agents and need ba?ed use of safe pesticides viz. neem pesticides, bio-cides etc. This approach aims to minimise the use of chemical pesticides in rice.

Judicious use of pesticide$_s$ based on Economic Threshold Level of pests viz. insect pests, diseases and weeds is recommended in rice. When such recommended peticides are used as per Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), various pests are controlled efficaciously without affecting rice production.

(d) According to reports the adoption of IPM has resulted in minimising the use of chemical pesticides resulting in increase in rice yeilds.

Production of ARECA Nuts

485. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: WiH the Minister ftf AGRICULTURE ba pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of Areca nuts during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the total export of Areca nuts during the last three years and consequential foreign exchange earning;

(c) whether Government have made efforts f°r promoting the export of Areca nuts, ff so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Areca nut production in Maharashtra is on the decline because of the presence of viral on the plant; and

(e) what measures Government have taken to eradicate the viral?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE {SHRl ARVIND NETAM): (a) The State-wise

production of arcanut during 1990-91 1992-93 is given below :—

(Production '000 tonnes)

State	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Andhra Pradesh	0.2	0.2	0.1
Assam	50.5	55.5	55.3
Karnataka	93.0	95.4	94.2
Kerala	66.5	67.9	66.2
Maharashtra	2.5	2.6	2.9
Meghalaya	5.2	8.7	8.4
Mizoram	0.2	0.1	0.1
Tamil Nadu	3.9	3.4	3.6
Tripura	2.3	2.5	2.5
West Bengal	7.9	8.3	8.7
Pondicherry	0.1	0.1	0.1
Andaman Nikcobar Is.	4.7	4.8	4.8
Goa	1.5	1.5	1.5
TOTAL:	238.5	251.0	248.4

(b) Tha quantity and value of export of arecanut during 1990-91 to 1992-93 is given below :—

	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	355	172.77
1991-92	640	442.90
1992-93	629	451.68

(c) Tha arecanut is exported to U.K., Nepal, Saudi-Arabia, Singapore, etc.

(d) and (e) No virus disease bas Deeu recorded on Arecanut in Maharashtra or anywhere in India. Therefore, measures to eradicate it do not arise.

Onion Production

486. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) wha<> are the figures for Onion production, Statewise during the last three years;

(b) whetiier it is a fact that despite even level of production the Onion prices have been rising; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to arrest the prices of Onions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE I MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The data on State-wise production of onion as available for the last three years is provided j in the enclosed statemen^ I *See* below).